

THE FLORIDA

HORSE

INDUSTRY



**Look Whos
Larkin**

Photo by
Pacific Range Design

Florida's horse industry is a highly diverse one that supports a wide variety of activities throughout the state. It combines the primarily rural activities of breeding, raising and training horses with the more urban activities of operating racetracks, off-track betting parlors, horse shows, polo, rodeos and other equine recreational pursuits. There are some 299,000 horses in Florida, with more than 70 percent involved in showing and recreation. Florida is home to nearly every breed of horse and is represented by equine champions known throughout the world. Their breeders, owners and trainers are drawn to Florida's year-round moderate climate, mineral-rich water and soil, outstanding facilities and strong support industries.



Skip Away • Photo by Skip Dickstein

From Thoroughbred and harness racing in south Florida to world class equestrian events in Palm Beach County to Ocala/Marion County's "Horse Capital of the World," Florida truly has it all.

Economic Impact

- The Florida horse industry generates a \$6.5 billion economic impact on the gross domestic product, when including spending by industry suppliers and employees.
- The Florida horse industry produces goods and services valued at \$2.2 billion.
- 244,200 Floridians are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers and employees.
- The Florida horse industry generates more than 72,000 jobs.

Agricultural Business Climate

- Florida has no personal income tax.
- Horses are exempt from sales tax when purchased from their original breeder. Breeding stock is also exempt.

Central Florida's Normal High and Low Temperatures

| Month | High | Low |
|--|------|------|
| January | 69.9 | 45.1 |
| February | 72.4 | 46.4 |
| March | 78.6 | 52.5 |
| April | 84.0 | 56.7 |
| May | 88.9 | 63.1 |
| June | 91.5 | 68.9 |
| July | 92.2 | 70.8 |
| August | 92.1 | 70.7 |
| September | 90.0 | 68.6 |
| October | 84.4 | 60.7 |
| November | 77.4 | 53.1 |
| December | 71.9 | 47.1 |
| Overall average high: 82.8 Degrees Overall average low: 58.6 degrees Overall normal: 70.7 degrees | | |
| <i>Source: National Weather Service. Jacksonville, Florida</i> | | |

■ Feed and animal health products, along with other specific items, are also exempt from state sales tax.

■ Certain farm equipment may be exempt from state sales tax or receive special treatment.

■ Florida's greenbelt exemption provides property tax breaks for Florida horse farms.

Horse Capital of the World

Ocala/Marion County, Florida has more horses and ponies than any other county in the nation, according to the United States Department of Agriculture census. With more than 900 farms, every breed from A to Z is represented here. The Ocala/Marion County area can claim such champions as Rugged Lark, the two-time American Quarter Horse Association Super Horse; Tra-shadeous, the National Reining Horse Association champion;



European Warmbloods • Photo by A.F. Steindl

Red Bow Tie, 1998 Breeders Crown champion; and Skip Away, the 1998 North American Horse of the Year.

The Ocala/Marion County area plays host to such nationally recognized equine events as the Horse Shows In The Sun (HITS), Live Oak Combined Driving Event, The Horse Festival and Sunshine State Games Equestrian Classic.

Major Thoroughbred Center

Florida is home to some 600 Thoroughbred farms and training centers, with more than 75 percent of these located in the Ocala/Marion County area. Florida Thoroughbred breeders and owners have a multibillion-dollar investment in the state. This investment in breeding farms, training centers, breeding, and racing stock creates an economic impact of an estimated \$1 billion.



Beautiful Pleasure • Photo by Equi-Photo

Come Join Us

Florida provides an outstanding agriculture and business climate for breeding and training horses. For more information about the Florida horse industry, contact:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 488-4132

Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association
(352) 629-2160

Florida Champion Horses Include:

1 **Silver Charm** (*Thoroughbred*)

1997 Kentucky Derby/Preakness Stakes Champion

Breeder: Mary Lou Wootton • Ocala, Florida

2 **Skip Away** (*Thoroughbred*)

1998 North American

Horse of the Year

Breeder: Anna Marie Barnhart

Ocala, Florida



Silver Charm

Photo by Barbara Livingston

3 **Rugged Lark** (*Quarter Horse*)

Two-Time AQHA Super Horse

Owner: Carol Harris

Bo-Bett Farm • Ocala, Florida

4 **Beautiful Pleasure** (*Thoroughbred*)

1999 North American Champion Older Female

Breeders: Farnsworth Farms

Ocala, Florida

5 **Red Bow Tie** (*Standardbred*)

1998 Breeders Crown Champion

Breeder: Dana Irving • Irving Farm • Ocala, Florida

6 **Look Whos Larkin** (*Quarter Horse*)

1999 AQHA Super Horse

Breeder: Carol Harris

Bo-Bett Farm • Ocala, Florida

7 **Pik Trump II** (*Dutch Warmblood*)

Rolex USET Young Riders National Champion

Owner/ Rider: Hillary Schlusemeyer

Quiet Hill Farm • Ocala, Florida

8 **Smoak** (*Arabian*)

2000 Florida-Bred Arabian National Champion

4 Year Old Colt

Owner/Trainer: Bill Waldron

Brooksville, Florida

9 Nel's Golden Girl (Quarter Horse)

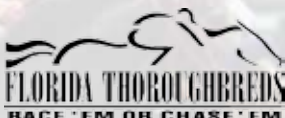
1999 Josey Jr. World Champion Barrel Racer
Owner/Rider: Tess Ducheneaux • Ocala, Florida

10 European Warmbloods

CAI-A Four-In-Hand Event Championship Team
Owner/Driver: Chester Weber
Ocala, Florida

**Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**

Phone: 850/488-4132



Florida Thoroughbred Breeders'
and Owners' Association

Phone:
352/629-2160



Florida Standardbred Breeders &
Owners Association

Phone:
954/972-5400



Phone:
813/726-3951



Association

Phone:
386/734-8561



Phone:
941/731-2999



Paso Fino Horse

ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

Phone:
813/719-7777



Phone:
941/321-3247



*Florida Morgan
Horse Association*

Phone:
813/960-2434